

SISTERS' DEPARTMENT.

Out of the Darkness.

BY M. M. STERLING.

I stood in the gloaming and wept,
As children sometimes weep at night,
Their arms lifted up, as they slept
Beneath the dull glare of a light.
But turned from the glitter of stars,
Whose coldness was freezing my heart,
Yet mutely to gaze for long hours,
Appearing of life not a part.
The moon shed her soft mellow ray,
That down on my path gently came.
Less bleak the spot seemed where it lay,
But passed ere it kindled a flame.
Still colder, intenser it grew,
About crept obscurity, gloom;
So darkness and density too,
Enclosed me around as a tomb.
The mist fell upon my bowed head
Unshielded from tempest or storm,
I heeded it not; as one dead,
I stood there; like marble in form.
Nor dared I to shrink or to start;
For statues are nothing but stone,
It touched, may be broken; no heart
Is found in the fragments near strown.
I trembled; the winds roughly knelt
To lay their damp snows on my brow;—
Then out of the darkness I felt
A hope come; I could not tell how.
If borne on the shadows of night
From zephyrs that lie far away;
Or brought by an angel in flight
From realms of ethereal day,
I knew not; nor cared I to know;
The morning gleams shone warm and sweet;
New splendors from heaven to throw,
And brighten the way at my feet.
I weep still that once I had wept;
But happiness now is complete;
My soul that for dreariness slept,
In vigilance, being replete.
God's spirit is filling my dreams
With radiance holy and true,
I move by its beautiful beams;
Night fled when the darkness I knew.
Oct. 31, 1888.

The Teacher and His Work.

Essay read by Sister Mary Olinger. Written by Miss Annie Younkin.

The most important factor in any Sunday School is the teacher. Upon him, more than any other one person depends the success of the school. The superintendent may be a man after God's own heart, imbued with the Spirit of the Living God; intensely in earnest, and eminently qualified in every way for the office to which the school has called him. But unless the teacher is a man of God, one who knows how to use his Bible aright and present the truths of God's Word in a way so as to reach the heart, the school must inevitably fail.

The responsibility of the Sunday School teacher is greater than is usually realized. He is the one person, above all others, who leaves upon the pupils his own individuality, and therefore it is not only important what and how he teaches, but it is indispensably necessary that his example and life are pure, his bearing noble and his character beyond reach. The minister's responsibility is greater only because the sphere of his labors is wider—he touches society at more points, and affects it to a greater extent; but the teacher is as verily a preacher as the preacher is or should be a teacher. Face to face he meets from 8 to 15 boys and girls every Lord's Day, to present to them the great

truths of the Gospel, and teach them something of love, of duty, of Christ, of God, and of heaven—boys and girls possessed with immortal spirits, and upon them he will leave impressions that will tell on generations yet unborn, and it may be fix the place or destiny of their souls in eternity—whether he will or not, his weekly contact with these souls set in motion influences, (which like the circling ripples on the smooth circle of the lake, ever widening and spreading until they break upon the shore,) the circling waves of these hallowed truths spread and widen and roll onward and onward ever, through all the fields of ether, through all the bounds of space, breaking peradventure only at the foot of the eternal throne. For a work of such magnitude whose results reach out so far, and involve such a responsibility, the teacher needs a special preparation. We have schools for the training of men and women for all the various professions. The minister, the lawyer, the physician, and the teacher, but none as yet for the training of Sunday School teachers whose work is equal to all and far superior to many. Fortunate enough the Sunday School teacher does not necessarily need a knowledge of Greek and Latin for his work. The education of the heart, rather than the development of the intellect, is the essential qualification of the successful teacher—a heart that has been taught to love souls—that feels and realizes the value and grandeur of the work of saving souls—that goes out in tender sympathy and Christ-like compassion in behalf of perishing sinners—a heart that seeks the closet and prays and pleads and wrestles with God, like Jacob of old, for a divine blessing. The teacher coming forth from his closet with a plain Bible that invites meditation, is better prepared, will make a deeper and a more lasting impression than the most intellectual man who has just emerged from a conglomeration of commentaries, critical, expository or homiletical. There is no reason why a young man or woman of ordinary ability, should not make a successful Sunday School teacher. There is no other teacher, public or private, who has such inexhaustible resources as the teacher of God's Word. He is not confined to the narrow limits of a little text book. Unless bound down by ecclesiastical rules and regulations, denominational bigotry, or commandments of men—unless his hands are tied by these chains and his heart burdened by such fetters—he has a wide field from which to select his material. The teacher who is allowed to teach the whole

Bible, has an inexhaustible mind of rich truths—stories adapted to the minds and hearts of young people. Most of our Sunday School pupils are children, and great portions of the Book we are called to expound to them come to us in forms best adapted to instruct and entertain the youth. The faithful teacher, bending over his Bible in prayer and meditation, led by the Holy Spirit to know the hidden truths, of the word will find here a mind of rich truths, stories and illustrations, that never grow old. The supply is endless, and the variety boundless. The story of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Samson, Samuel, David, Daniel, the three Hebrew children, the missionary maid, the boy that was lame, the story of Ruth, Esther, the crossing of the Red Sea, the Plagues of Egypt, Pharaoh killing the boys, the manger in the stable, the star, the wise men, the shepherd's and the angel's song, the parables and miracles of our Lord, the story of the cross, the burial and resurrection—these with numberless others and boundless variety, furnish the teacher of the Word with material nowhere else to be found; and within easy reach of these, with the promise of guidance by the Holy Spirit, the presence of Jesus, the stimulating promises of rich rewards—the teacher has no excuse for want of preparation.

Then lastly, the teacher must often go to the Teacher of teachers—the one whose simple way of presenting truths won the hearts of people, arrested the imagination and touched the hearts of children. To him came Nicodemus—a learned man in Israel—to him came the great and the noble, the men of love of all ages, the philosopher and the man of science, to learn lessons of wisdom. To him the teacher must go often—imbibe his spirit—the spirit of love, and tenderness, and sympathy, and compassion, and pity for perishing souls. And under the inspiration of his holy and pure life, his matchless discourses, his amazing and stupendous sacrifices, the teacher never wearies of his labors, knowing that in the end, from the blessed lips of the Master will fall the sweet words, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joys of thy rest."

Free institutions will never of themselves make freemen out of men who are themselves the slaves to vice; but free men will inevitably express their inward character in their outward institutions. The spirit of every kingdom must begin first "Within you."—F. W. Robertson.

College Corner, Ind.

I held a few meetings in the Methodist church, in Somerset, in connection with the College Corner meeting for the month of October. The meetings were well attended considering the terrible, wild, nonsensical political excitement. The immediate result of the meeting was, 3 were baptized. Others said they were ready but had reasons for waiting a little longer to be baptized.

My health has been bad for a month. The few meetings referred to above is all I have done since the conference excepting to preach once for Bro. Kimmel at Edna Mills, and Bro. Hendricks' funeral.

Bro. Zadoc Hendricks died very suddenly of heart disease the morning of the 14th of October. His funeral was attended on the 15th, in the Christian church in Burlington by hundreds of people. Many could not get into the house. Thus another of our brethren passed quietly away, almost while in the very act of conversation with his wife. Sister Hendricks said he arose a little earlier that morning than usual, and after looking around a while, he sat down in the big rocking chair and talked as he had often done before, but suddenly and quietly passed away.

Bro. P. J. Brown you will remember Bro. Hendricks. Bro. Zad. is no more.

J. H. SWIHART.

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MARRIED.

KALP-BENNETT.—By the undersigned, at his residence, Nov. 1, 1888, Mr. Philip C. Kalp, of Champion, Pa., and Miss Ettie Bennett, of Jones Mills, Pa. May peace and happiness attend them during life.

W. A. HARMAN.

SAYLOR-WARNER.—At the residence of the bride's parents in Morrill Tp., Brown Co., Kansas, by the undersigned, Oct. 28, 1888, Mr. Ira Saylor to Miss Rebecca Warner.

E. L. YODER.

OUR DEAD.

MEYERS.—Roscoe, died Sept. 18, 1888, aged 2 years, 11 mo. and 18 days. Daisy, of the same family, died Oct. 2, '88, aged 1 year and 21 days. Funeral services by the writer. Roscoe and Daisy were two sweet children with whom it was sad to part. But they have gone to a better land and entered into a rest sweeter than earth can afford. Before sin had stained their pure souls, they went to Him who, when here on earth, said, "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." It is a cheering and comforting thought to know that when we bury our little ones we only lay them away in God's acre until harvest, when they will be gathered for his kingdom.

A. D. GNAGEY.

Select Readings.

Set yourself a good example, for you are more likely to follow your own example than that set you by any one else.

Spasmodic goodness may be better than no piety at all; but it is far below the Christian ideal and far from what is expected of man.

Christianity with hands and arms and feet is the want of today—a living, acting, working religion. Ideas are as dead as shells unless the holder puts them

on feet and sends them out to do good for mankind.

Reflection is an angel which points out the errors of the past, and gives them courage to avoid them in the future.

The serene, silent beauty of a holy life is the most powerful influence in the world next to the might of God.—Pascal.

The growth of grace is like the polishing of metals. There is first an opaque surface; by and by you see a spark darting out, then a strong light, till at length it sends back a perfect image of the sun that shines upon it.

Duty is binding; but when duly performed is a good tonic for the feelings. It may seem harsh sometimes; but it is the cheerful performance of duties that seem obnoxious which characterizes the Christian's life.

Evidences of one's Christianity often appear, not merely from inward assurance, but from realization of the help the Christian faith affords in the ordinary relations of life.

We have heard many of our old friends say that Salvation Oil cured them of Rheumatism. Those who have not tried it, should do so. Our druggists sell it for twenty-five cents a bottle.

A tree will only lie as it falls, but it will fall as it leans. And the great question everyone should bring home to himself is this: "What is the inclination of my soul? Does it, with all its affections, lean towards God or away from him?"—J. J. Sterling.

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Lung Diseases,

for which I believe it to be the greatest medicine in the world."—James Miller, Caraway, N. C.

"My wife had a distressing cough, with pains in the side and breast. We tried various medicines, but none did her any good until I got a bottle of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral which has cured her. A neighbor, Mrs. Glenn, had the measles, and the cough was relieved by the use of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. I have no hesitation in recommending this medicine."—Robert Horton, Foreman Headlight, Morrillton, Ark.

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STATE OF OHIO.
INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

Columbus, March 1, 1888.

I, SAMUEL E. KEMP, Superintendent of Insurance of the State of Ohio, do hereby certify that the Union Central Life Insurance Co., located at Cincinnati, in the State of Ohio, has complied in all respects with the laws of this State, relating to such Insurance Companies, and is authorized to transact its appropriate business of LIFE INSURANCE in this State, in accordance with law, until the first day of April of the year next succeeding the date hereof. The condition and business of said Company on the thirty-first day of December, of the year next preceding the date hereof, is shown by the statement, under oath, required by Section 261, Revised Statutes of Ohio, to be as follows:

Aggregate amount of available assets, \$3,765,284 56	
Aggregate amount of liabilities, (except capital), including re-insurance, and special accumulations,	3,429,074 35
General surplus on policy-holders' account,	\$39,510 21
Capital stock,	100,000 00
Amount of income for the year,	1,264,933 21
Amount of expenditures for the year,	794,000 41

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and caused my official seal to be affixed, the day and year first above written.

SAMUEL E. KEMP,

Supt. of Insurance.

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